

# Senate File 2024 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2024

BY KIBBIE

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to workforce training programs in community  
2 colleges and making appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 84A.6, Code Supplement 2011, is amended  
2 by adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The department of workforce  
4 development, in consultation with the college student aid  
5 commission, shall issue a quarterly report identifying  
6 industries in which the department finds a shortage of skilled  
7 workers in this state for the purposes of the skilled workforce  
8 shortage tuition grant program established in section 261.130.

9 Sec. 2. Section 260I.2, Code Supplement 2011, is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 **260I.2 Gap tuition assistance program — fund —**  
12 **appropriation.**

13 1. A gap tuition assistance program is established to  
14 provide funding to community colleges for need-based tuition  
15 assistance to applicants to enable completion of continuing  
16 education certificate training programs for in-demand  
17 occupations.

18 2. There is established for the community colleges a  
19 gap tuition assistance fund in the state treasury to be  
20 administered by the department of education. There is  
21 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the gap  
22 tuition assistance fund for each fiscal year until the close  
23 of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2016, the sum of two  
24 million dollars for the purpose of implementing the gap tuition  
25 assistance program. The aggregate total of grants awarded  
26 shall not be more than two million dollars during a fiscal  
27 year. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund at the  
28 close of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund  
29 of the state but shall remain available for expenditure for  
30 the purpose designated until the close of the fiscal year that  
31 begins July 1, 2016. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection  
32 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited  
33 to the fund.

34 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **261.130 Skilled workforce shortage**  
35 **tuition grant program — appropriation.**

1     1. A skilled workforce shortage tuition grant may be awarded  
2 to any resident of Iowa who is admitted and in attendance as  
3 a full-time or part-time student in a vocational-technical  
4 or career option program to pursue an associate's degree or  
5 other training at a community college in the state, and who  
6 establishes financial need.

7     2. Skilled workforce shortage tuition grants shall be  
8 awarded only to students pursuing a vocational-technical or  
9 career option program in an industry identified as having  
10 a shortage of skilled workers by a community college after  
11 conducting a regional skills gap analysis or by the department  
12 of workforce development in the department's most recent  
13 quarterly report pursuant to section 84A.6, subsection 4.

14     3. The amount of a skilled workforce shortage tuition grant  
15 shall not exceed the lesser of one-half of a student's tuition  
16 and fees for an approved vocational-technical or career option  
17 program or the amount of the student's established financial  
18 need.

19     4. All classes identified by the community college  
20 as required for completion of the student's approved  
21 vocational-technical or career option program shall be  
22 considered a part of the student's vocational-technical or  
23 career option program for the purpose of determining the  
24 student's eligibility for a grant. Notwithstanding subsection  
25 5, if a student is making satisfactory academic progress but  
26 the student cannot complete a vocational-technical or career  
27 option program in the time frame allowed for a student to  
28 receive a skilled workforce shortage tuition grant as provided  
29 in subsection 5 because additional classes are required to  
30 complete the program, the student may continue to receive a  
31 skilled workforce shortage tuition grant for not more than one  
32 additional enrollment period.

33     5. *a.* A qualified full-time student may receive skilled  
34 workforce shortage tuition grants for not more than four  
35 semesters or the trimester or quarter equivalent of two full

1 years of study. A qualified part-time student enrolled in a  
2 course of study including at least three semester hours but  
3 fewer than twelve semester hours or the trimester or quarter  
4 equivalent may receive skilled workforce shortage tuition  
5 grants for not more than eight semesters or the trimester or  
6 quarter equivalent of two full years of full-time study.

7     *b.* However, if a student resumes study after at least a  
8 two-year absence, the student may again be eligible for the  
9 specified amount of time, except that the student shall not  
10 receive assistance for courses for which credit was previously  
11 received.

12     6. A skilled workforce shortage tuition grant shall be  
13 awarded on an annual basis, requiring reapplication by the  
14 student for each year. Payments under the grant shall be  
15 allocated equally among the semesters or quarters of the year  
16 upon certification by the community college that the student is  
17 in full-time or part-time attendance in a vocational-technical  
18 or career option program consistent with the requirements of  
19 this section. If the student discontinues attendance before  
20 the end of any term after receiving payment of the grant, the  
21 entire amount of any refund due that student, up to the amount  
22 of any payments made under the annual grant, shall be paid by  
23 the community college to the state.

24     7. If a student receives financial aid under any other  
25 program, the full amount of that financial aid shall be  
26 considered part of the student's financial resources available  
27 in determining the amount of the student's financial need for  
28 that period.

29     8. The commission shall administer this program and shall:

30     *a.* Provide application forms for distribution to students by  
31 Iowa high schools and community colleges.

32     *b.* Adopt rules for approving vocational-technical or career  
33 option programs in industries identified by the department of  
34 workforce development pursuant to section 84A.6, subsection 4;  
35 determining financial need; defining residence for the purposes

1 of this section; processing and approving applications for  
2 grants; and determining priority for grants.

3     *c.* Approve and award grants on an annual basis.

4     *d.* Make an annual report to the governor and general  
5 assembly. The report shall include the number of students  
6 receiving assistance and the industries identified by  
7 the community colleges and by the department of workforce  
8 development pursuant to section 84A.6, subsection 4, for which  
9 students were admitted to a vocational-technical or career  
10 option program.

11     9. Each applicant, in accordance with the rules established  
12 by the commission, shall:

13     *a.* Complete and file an application for a skilled workforce  
14 shortage tuition grant.

15     *b.* Be responsible for the submission of the financial  
16 information required for evaluation of the applicant's need for  
17 a grant, on forms determined by the commission.

18     *c.* Report promptly to the commission any information  
19 requested.

20     *d.* Submit a new application for reevaluation of the  
21 applicant's eligibility to receive a second-year renewal of the  
22 grant.

23     10. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
24 state to the commission for each fiscal year until the close  
25 of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2016, the sum of  
26 eighteen million dollars for the skilled workforce shortage  
27 tuition grant program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys  
28 appropriated in this subsection that remain unencumbered or  
29 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert  
30 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes  
31 designated until the close of the fiscal year that begins July  
32 1, 2016.

33                                   EXPLANATION

34     This bill establishes a skilled workforce shortage tuition  
35 grant program to be administered by the college student aid

1 commission. A skilled workforce shortage tuition grant may be  
2 awarded by the commission to an Iowa resident who is admitted  
3 and in attendance as a full-time or part-time student in a  
4 vocational-technical or career option program to pursue an  
5 associate's degree or other training at a community college  
6 in the state and who establishes financial need. Grants are  
7 limited to students pursuing a vocational-technical or career  
8 option program in an industry identified as having a shortage  
9 of skilled workers by a community college after conducting a  
10 regional skills gap analysis or by the department of workforce  
11 development. The bill directs the department, in consultation  
12 with the college student aid commission, to issue a quarterly  
13 report identifying industries in which the department finds  
14 a shortage of skilled workers in this state for the purposes  
15 of the program. A grant is not to exceed the lesser of  
16 one-half of a student's tuition and fees for an approved  
17 vocational-technical or career option program or the amount of  
18 the student's established financial need.

19 The bill provides that all classes identified by a community  
20 college as required for completion of the student's program are  
21 considered a part of the student's program for the purpose of  
22 determining the student's eligibility for a skilled workforce  
23 shortage tuition grant. The bill allows a student to continue  
24 to receive a grant for one additional enrollment period if  
25 additional classes are required to complete the program.

26 The bill provides that a qualified full-time student can  
27 receive skilled workforce shortage tuition grants for up to  
28 four semesters or the trimester or quarter equivalent of two  
29 full years of study. A qualified part-time student can receive  
30 grants for not more than eight semesters or the trimester or  
31 quarter equivalent of two full years of full-time study. The  
32 bill provides that if a student resumes study after at least a  
33 two-year absence, the student may regain eligibility for the  
34 specified amount of time, but cannot receive assistance for  
35 courses for which credit was previously received.

1     The bill provides that a skilled workforce shortage  
2 tuition grant is to be awarded on an annual basis, requiring  
3 reapplication by students for each year. Grants are to be  
4 allocated equally among the semesters or quarters of the year  
5 upon certification by a community college that a student is  
6 in attendance in a vocational-technical or career option  
7 program consistent with the requirements of the bill. If the  
8 student discontinues attendance before the end of a term after  
9 receiving payment of the grant, the entire amount of any refund  
10 due that student, up to the amount of any payments made under  
11 the annual grant, is to be paid by the community college to the  
12 state.

13     The bill provides that if a student receives financial aid  
14 under any other program, the full amount of that financial aid  
15 is to be considered part of the student's financial resources  
16 available in determining the amount of the student's financial  
17 need.

18     The bill directs the college student aid commission to carry  
19 out certain duties to administer the skilled workforce shortage  
20 tuition grant program, including distributing grant application  
21 forms, adopting necessary rules, approving and awarding grants,  
22 and making an annual report to the governor and the general  
23 assembly on the program. The bill provides that each applicant  
24 for a grant must complete and file an application, submit  
25 information for the determination of financial need, report  
26 promptly to the commission any information requested, and  
27 submit a new application for reevaluation of the applicant's  
28 eligibility to receive a second-year renewal of the grant.

29     The bill appropriates \$18 million from the general fund to  
30 the college student aid commission for the skilled workforce  
31 shortage tuition grant program for each fiscal year until  
32 the close of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2016.

33 Moneys appropriated by the bill that remain unencumbered or  
34 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year do not revert to  
35 the general fund but remain available for expenditure for the

1 purposes designated by the bill until the close of the fiscal  
2 year that begins July 1, 2016.

3     The bill establishes a gap tuition assistance fund in the  
4 state treasury for the community colleges. The fund is to  
5 be administered by the department of education. The bill  
6 appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the gap  
7 tuition assistance fund to implement the gap tuition assistance  
8 program for each fiscal year until the close of the fiscal  
9 year that begins July 1, 2016. The aggregate total of grants  
10 awarded shall not be more than \$2 million during a fiscal year.